

THE GARDEN ISLAND

Issued Every Tuesday Morning

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Editor

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Playing Portuguese Against Orientals

Under the above heading a Portuguese newspaper of Honolulu takes exception to a recent editorial in this paper calling attention, first, to the complaints of an element of Kauai Portuguese against the higher charges for merchandise in the stores at present and, second, that our merchants were helpless in the matter. The editorial referred to was based upon a statement recently made by a customer to a merchant to the following effect: "The plantations pay us a large bonus and the stores take it back again." The Honolulu paper intimates that country storekeepers may be taking advantage of the present situation "to add on a cent or two to make an even nickel on the price of goods." Attention is also called to the fact that the living expenses of Portuguese is much higher than are those of certain other laboring classes in the Islands.

In THE GARDEN ISLAND's editorial referred to the whole idea and aim was to induce people of this island who do read the newspapers and keep posted on conditions, to go out of their way and take the time to explain to those less well informed the exact causes of the present high prices of many articles of merchandise. Cost figures on many articles to the consumer on this island are not even now nearly so high as they will be in the very near future. Cotton, for instance, has been going up lately by leaps and bounds, until it is now higher than at any time since the civil war in America. The inevitable result of this will be that in a few months all cotton goods in the stores will be at prices higher than most residents of the Islands have ever known.

We were not, in our editorial, defending the "high cost of living," but merely endeavoring to caution consumers of this island that local merchants were not in any way to blame for conditions. (It may interest our contemporary to know that most of our independent stores are owned by Portuguese, and that the complaint quoted was by a Portuguese against a Portuguese storekeeper.)

We do not agree that country merchants are taking advantage of the situation to make a little extra money, but feel quite positive that just the opposite is the case on this island. In many instances profits have been cut to relieve the less fortunate classes of customers from world conditions with which we now have to contend.

The point of our contemporary that the burden of present high prices falls more heavily upon the Portuguese than upon certain other elements of our working classes is well taken, and we hope it will be borne in mind by the public generally in considering this problem of the higher cost of living in the country districts.

The Deutschland And Her Mails

Unprecedented engines of war employed in the present great struggle in Europe has resulted in so many conflicting opinions as to what may and what may not be permissible under international law that the neutral part of the world hardly knows where it is at a large part of the time. Aircraft warfare created problems for what little there is of neutral Europe, while the submarine problem has been with us in America for more than two years.

Now we are faced with the question of whether the postoffice department should make a contract with the German undersea freighter Deutschland to carry the American mails to the Central Powers. The American position has always been that the legitimate mail and commerce of neutrals should not be interfered with by either side. The blockade of the North Sea has been recognized, however, as indicated by the failure of the American government to resist the detention and search of American vessels arriving in the war zone. At the same time it has been recognized for centuries that a blockade to be genuine and entitled to recognition must be effective, and it is entirely up to the blockaders to make it so. Insofar as the Deutschland is concerned the blockade does not appear to be effective, for the submersible has to date come and gone at will.

There is no question of the right and propriety of private enterprises of America shipping goods, money, bullion or anything they may like by the Deutschland; but there does seem to be a question in the minds of some as to whether a government friendly to both sides should officially route mails through Germany in this unusual way. Blockade-running has always been indulged in, but never with the sanction of neutral governments. The crucial point with Germany's new undersea commercial route to America, however, is that there is not nor has there ever been any effective blockade on that particular scheme of communication.

The Y. M. C. A. Report

The annual year book of the Young Men's Christian Association of North America is just off the press. The report shows growth in all departments. There are now eight hundred buildings in America at a cost of over ninety million dollars. Seven hundred thousand members are daily using the privileges of these well equipped club houses. To pay the bills these Associations spent \$14,345,722 last year. The North American associations helped the work in Asia, South America and the Levant to the extent of \$466,538 as compared with \$433,101 the previous year.

To minister to the young men in the prison camps of Europe the Association is spending over a million dollars. A half million is being spent with the American troops on the Mexican border. Forty buildings, 80x40 feet costing \$2500 to erect and equip, have been erected in eighteen camps. These structures overtop the cities of tents and are the center of social life in each camp.

During the first four months of the work on the Mexican border ten million sheets of paper, 5,000,000 envelopes, and 10,000 quarts of ink were furnished free to soldiers. Thirty moving picture machines gave constant use, 53 talking machines with 2,200 records were provided, sixty tons of magazines gathered and distributed. Twenty thousand New Testaments were given away and one hundred Gospel meetings a week held and crowded. Soldiers and officers say "Could not live without you." This work cost \$1,500 a day. Mr. Frank Atherton represents Hawaii on the Y. M. C. A. International Committee.

The Y. M. C. A. movement has surely become one of vast proportions and is accomplishing an enormous amount of good. It should be encouraged and aided by everybody.

Red Cross Work

The sale of Red Cross stamps for the anti-tuberculosis cause is progressing in a most satisfactory manner. Mrs. C. A. Rice reports that people all over the island are responding in a generous spirit to this call, recognizing that here is an opportunity to give, even if in a small way, to a very worthy cause. Every dime or dollar will help in a fight against an evil which, if neglected, may menace the lives of every one.

The ladies who have charge of the sale in the different districts are as follows:

Hanalei..... Miss Christopherson
Kilauea..... Mrs. Myers
Kealia..... Mrs. G. P. Wilcox
Lihue..... Miss Weber
Koloa..... Mrs. Farley
Eleele..... Mrs. Alexander
Makaweli..... Mrs. Douglas Baldwin
Waimea and Kekaha..... Mrs. Knudsen and Mrs. Schultz
Mr. Loomis' clubs are also busy making sales. Many of the leading stores on the island have the stamps on hand. If by any chance you are overlooked, please put yourself on record by applying to Mrs. C. A. Rice or to any of the above named ladies. Let us all help in making this the best stamp sale we have ever had on Kauai.

CONSIDERABLE SPACE is given nowadays by the press of the Islands to the subject of a possible change in the governorship of Hawaii. As a

practical, business proposition: Do we want a change at all? On account of our mixed population, our diversity of ideas and ideals and the conflict of material interests at various angles it is impossible for a governor of Hawaii to delight everybody. Governor Pinkham has come nearer the mark, however, than any chief executive we have ever had, and on a basis of the modern by-word "safety first" we are inclined decidedly toward more of Governor Pinkham than a change which would be doubtful as to results at the very best.

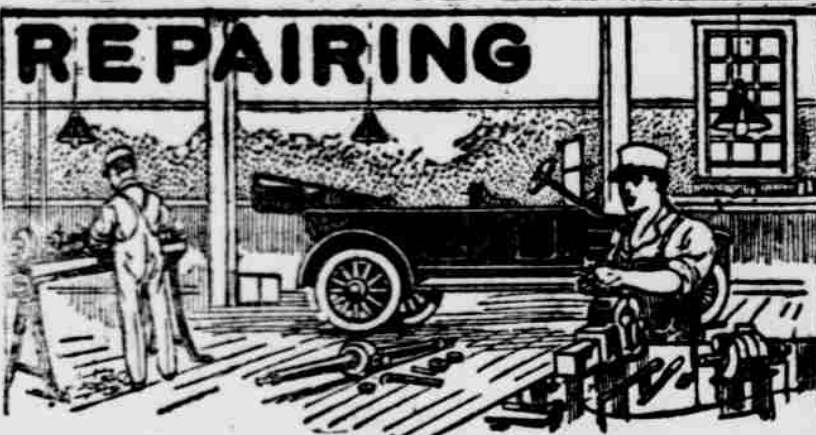
IT IS CLAIMED that the Filipino who shot and killed a friend and wounded another man in Hanapepe a week ago got his idea from a motion picture which he had seen. In this community, with so many un-instructed, whose emotions are so easily aroused, great caution should be used in the matter of pictures. Pictorial suggestions likely to direct the mind toward murder or other wrong-doing should be eliminated entirely from programs. It should be possible to obtain classic and educational films—pictures that leave something worth while on the mind. Surely productions that incite the ignorant to crime should not be brought here on any account.

THEY HAVE a very unique prohibition law in Tennessee. In fact it is not termed a prohibition law at all, but it works out that way. The enactment, which was submitted to the people, simply provides that intoxicating liquor shall not be sold within four miles of any church or school house. It turned out that there was only one, lone spot in the entire State four miles and more from a church or school house, and that place was so sparsely settled that the saloon keeper, if one cared to tackle the proposition, would probably have himself as his own best customer.

THE STANDARD of the principal pictures (those classed as "leaders") shown on Kauai in the past month or two has gone down. It is generally recognized that no one here is to blame for it. It may be that the parties at Honolulu are not to blame—that they are sending us the best they can procure. If that is true, however, they should let the public know about it.

FORMER PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT and wife plan to come to the Hawaiian Islands early in the year for a sight-seeing tour. It would be interesting to a great many if they could visit Kauai, and we suggest that the Special Guests Committee of the Chamber of Commerce extend them an invitation.

MAUI'S FAIR at the end of this month will be well worth visiting and we hope that many Kauai people may find it convenient to take it in. Maui and Hawaii are taking the lead in establishing the "fair" spirit in the Islands, and it would not hurt at all if it spread farther north to Kauai.



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